

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01661 111415 Z

52

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, TU

SUBJECT: GATT: TURKISH BOP CONSULTATIONS AND STAMP DUTY WAIVER

REF: (A) GENEVA 5216; (B) ANKARA 316

BEGIN SUMMARY: GUIDANCE REQUESTED FOR INFORMAL MEETING
APRIL 25 ON TURKISH/ BOP CONSULTATIONS AND WAIVER EXTEN-
SION REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. BOP COMMITTEE WILL MEET MAY 1 (FICE APRIL 30) FOR
TURKISH ARTICLE XVIII CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION
OF REQUEST FOR STAMP WAIVER EXTENSION. SECRETARIAT
UNDERSTANDS TURKS DO NOT ANTICIPATE SERIOUS OPPOSITION
OR CRITICISM DESPITE VERY STRONG FX POSITION. IMF RE-
PORTEDLY BELIEVES CURRENT LEVEL OF RESTRICTIONS CANNOT
BE JUSTIFIED ON BOP GROUNDS BUT FEELS STAMP DUTY AND
OTHER IMPORT CHARGES REQUIRED FOR REVENUE PURPOSES.

2. PRINCIPAL BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR MEETING ARE IMF' S
RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF FEBRUARY 22, 1972 AND
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01661 111415 Z

BOP/129, BASIC DOCUMENT SUBMITTED BY TURKEY (ADVANCE COPY POUCHED EB/ OT- LORIMER AND ANKARA- BRUNGART APRIL 3). IMF ALSO EXPECTED TO ISSUE NEW BOARD DECISION AND RED SUPPLEMENT, BUT NO FURTHER GOT SUBMISSION ANTICIPATED.

3. CHAIRMAN HAS CALLED INFORMAL MEETING OF KEY DELS, IMF AND SECRETARIAT APRIL 25 TO DISCUSS SCENARIO FOR COMMITTEE MEETING. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF THIS SESSION ON POSITION WE INTEND TO TAKE MAY 1.

4. IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, MISSION WOULD FAVOR ACTIVE CRITICISM OF VULNERABLE ASPECTS OF TURKISH IMPORT POLICY. HOWEVER, TURKISH RESPONSIVENESS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR TO US BILATERAL EFFORTS SECURE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF TURKISH QR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US (REF B) MAKES US WONDER IF THIS IS PROPER TIME FOR US TO TAKE LEADING ROLE.

5. WHAT TO DO ABOUT TURKISH STAMP DUTY COULD BE AWKWARD. BOP JUSTIFICATION SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED, BUT TURKS MAY SHIFT TO REVENUE NEEDS AS EXCUSE TO RETAIN. WITH WAIVER ON BOP GROUNDS EXPIRING MAY 31 AND IMPROBABILITY GOT REMOVAL THAT QUICKLY, REALISTIC OPTIONS SEEM TO BE EITHER TO AUTHORIZE NEW WZIVER ON DIFFERENT GROUND (I. E., TAX REVENUE) OR DECLINE GIVE GOT LEGAL COVER, LEAVING TURKEY IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE II. AT APRIL 25 MEETING SUGGEST WE BE AUTHORIZED EXPLORE HOW OTHERS PLAN DEAL WITH THIS POINT, MAKING CLEAR WE DO NOT SEE ANY CURRENT OR IMMEDIATELY- FORESEEABLE BOP JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUATION OF STAMP TAX. RIMESTAD

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